

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /097 W
-----060634 201413Z /41

R 201147Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3336
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1121

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XF, SW
SUBJECT: PARTIAL ARAB BOYCOTT OF GOS RECEPTION

REF: STOCKHOLM 1089 (NOTAL)

1. WE WERE TOLD BY SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE THAT ALL ARAB AMBASSADORS EXCEPT EGYPTIAN HAD NOT ATTENDED GOS RECEPTION MARCH 15 IN PROTEST AGAINST WHAT THEY CONSIDERED INSUFFICIENTLY STRONG SWEDISH POSITION ON ISRAELI INCURSION INTO LEBANON. RECEPTION WAS SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF SWEDISH CABINET WITH HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION (REFTEL), SO WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

2. SWEDISH SOURCES WERE NOT EAGER TO DISCUSS THIS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING EVENT, EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT THE RINGLEADER WAS THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR (MOUNIR GHANDOUR) AND THE BOYCOTT WAS LOCALLY INSPIRED, NOT DONE ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS.

3. MARCH 17 CHARGE ASKED EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR (AZIZ
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HAMZA) ABOUT THE INCIDENT, WHICH HE READILY CONFIRMED. HE SAID LEBANESE AMBASSADOR FELT THAT ALTHOUGH GOS SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE ISRAELI INCURSION, IT HAD EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF PALESTINIAN RAID INTO ISRAEL BUT HAD NOT DONE EXACTLY THE SAME FOR PALESTINIAN VICTIMS OF ISRAELI ATTACK. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MADE IT CLEAR HE REGARDED GOS POSITION AS CORRECT, AND FELT

OTHER ARAB AMBASSADORS, BY GOING ALONG WITH THE LEBANESE, HAD MADE A MISTAKE WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY HURT ARAB APPEALS FOR SUPPORT FROM GOS AT SOME FUTURE DATE. HE SAID PRESIDENT SADAT'S POSITION HAD BEEN THE CORRECT ONE THROUGHOUT AND HE COULD NOT APPROVE THE ARAB AMBASSADORS' IDEA OF BOYCOTTING THE RECEPTION. HE CONFIRMED THE IDEA WAS LOCAL AND NOT ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS.

4. ARAB COUNTRIES WITH RESIDENT AMBASSADORS HERE ARE ALGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ, LIBYA AND TUNISIA (PLUS SOMALIA AND SUDAN IF OUR SOURCES WERE INCLUDING THEM), IN ADDITION TO EGYPT AND LEBANON. CHARGE DID NOT PERSONALLY SEE ANY OF THOSE AMBASSADORS AT THE RECEPTION AND ASSUMES ALL SUPPORTED THE LEBANESE (WHO IS SENIOR ARAB AMBASSADOR).

5. COMMENT. WE DO NOT ASCRIBE MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THE EVENT, WHICH HAS NOT APPEARED IN THE PRESS, BUT FELT IT SHOULD BE REPORTED PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND OTHER ARAB AMBASSADORS.
PERRY

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